(c) the steps Government are taking to solve the grievances of such victimized women?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Ministry has assigned the work to deal with such cases to a Director level officer who is looking after this work in addition to her other duties in the Ministry. The Ministry has so far received 118 representations in connection with harassment by NRI husbands which have been referred to the State Governments/Indian Missions concerned for taking appropriate action in the matter. The Ministry has introduced a scheme to provide legal/counseling services to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses through Indian Missions abroad. An awareness/publicity campaign to make people aware of such issues has been launched by way of publication of guidance booklet, distribution of multi-lingual pamphlets, seminars and scrolls on TV etc.

Delay in NH projects

*513. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has not been able to complete the National Highway projects within the stipulated time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the NHAI frequently seeks extension for the completion of projects; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has completed about 95% of golden Quardrilateral (GO) (National Highways Development Project Phase-I) as on date. The balance work as not been completed due to various reasons such as rescrinding and re-awarding of the contracts of non-performing contractors, delay in land acquisition, shifting of utilities, Environment/Forest/Railways clearances etc.

North South & East West (NS & EW) corridor (National Highways Development Project Phase-ll) is likely to be completed by December,

2009. The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-Ill, Phase-V and Phase-VI, projects are only at initial 64 stage of implementation.

(c) and (d) Extension of time is granted to the contractors for delays not attributable to them as per provisions of the contract.

New townships in Karnataka

*514. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any sites have been identified in the State of Karnataka for setting up new townships either by foreign builders or Indian town planners and builders;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating separately the projects to be taken up by foreign investors and Indian builders;

(c) whether no sites have so far been identified; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to do so and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) "Urban Development" being a State subject, urban development projects are formulated, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves. Central assistance is given to the State Governments to supplement their efforts. However, as intimated by the Government of Karnataka, five locations have been identified in the State for setting up of new integrated townships in the Bangalore Metropolitan Region at Bidadi, Ramanagaram, Solur, Nandagudi and Sathanur. These townships are proposed to be implemented in PPP mode/private sector investments. International/National and local investors/builders are encouraged to invest in the projects. All the proposed five townships are open for both Indian and foreign investors without any discrimination subject to condition that the foreign investors have to conform to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) guidelines issued by the Government of India. Out of the above, Bidadi Integrated township Project is taken up as Pilot project for Which 32 companies have applied for Request for Quotation (RFQ) out of which 24 companies are shortlisted and Request for Proposal (RFP) issued with document and the last date for submitting RFP is 31.5.2007.